

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicants' attorney, Dr. Auth, on 6/13/2010.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

CLAIMS 2-5, 7-41, 48-48 have been canceled.

CLAIM 1 as presented in paper 12/08/2009 has been amended as below (**Patent claim 1**):

- Line 18: "without any intervening material" has been changed to – **at curved portions of said first, second and third loop containing sections --**.

CLAIM 6 as presented in paper 12/08/2009 has been amended as below:

- Line 12: "without any intervening material" has been changed to – **at curved portions of said first and second circumferential bands --**.

Reasons For Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior arts of reference have failed to disclose or suggest a stent structure comprising 1st loop

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containing sections, 2nd loop containing sections, 3rd loop containing sections, 1st circumferential bands, 2nd circumferential bands as recited in independent claims 1 and 6, especially the direct connections between curved portions as recited in the claims. The prior art of reference also have failed to disclose or suggest a stent structure consisting essentially of 1st loop containing sections, 2nd loop containing sections, 3rd loop containing sections as recited in independent claim 49.

Claims 1, 6, 42-44, 49 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vy Q. Bui whose telephone number is 571-272-4692. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on 571-272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vy Q. Bui/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773